United Nations A/C.3/60/SR.9

General Assembly
Sixtieth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
21 October 2005

Original: English

Third Committee

Summary record of the 9th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 10 October 2005, at 3 p.m.

Chairman:	Mr. Butagira	(Uganda)
later:	Mr. Tomic (Vice-Chairman)	(Slovenia)
later:	Mr. Butagira	(Uganda)

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05-54145 (E)

Agenda item 61: Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

Agenda item 62: Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family
(continued) (A/C.3/60/L.6 and L.7)

Introduction of draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.6, Follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond

4. **Ms. Brown** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced the draft resolution,

11. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Belarus and the Russian Federation had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

Agenda item 106: Crime prevention and criminal justice (continued) (A/60/122, A/60/131, A/60/132, A/60/164, A/60/172, A/60/403/Add.2/Corr.1 and A/60/403/Add.3/Rev.1)

Agenda item 107: International drug control (continued) (A/60/126, A/60/156, A/60/166, A/60/403/Add.2/Corr.1 and A/60/403/Add.3/Rev.1)

12. **Mr. Puja** (Indonesia), introducing on agenda items 106 and 107, said that if the international community took the same action in the present and future as it had done in the past, it would reap the results of the past. It must cooperate effectively at all levels to combat transnational crime effectively. Criminals operating in different States had expanded their efforts, using information and communication technologies, to create global networks engaged in drug trafficking, human trafficking, money-laundering, corruption and other practices. When escaping from the law, they sought a safe haven in any part of the world.

13. Transnational criminal groups and terrorist networks must be dismantled so that they could not have a negative impact on development. The United Nations Millennium Declaration, the outcome of the 2005 World Summit and the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held in Bangkok in April 2005 had made clear that only cooperation would achieve that aim. Despite their commitment to multilateralism, the Member States were still having difficulty working together to share information, build institutional capacity, provide mutual support to law enforcement, provide training and implement extradition measures. There was, however, greater international collaboration in combating terrorism. That was important to Indonesia, which had again fallen victim to terrorism.

14. Indonesia had signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and two of its supplementary protocols. While it had not yet completed ratification procedures, all aspects of the Convention were observed in its everyday legal practice. Indonesia had also signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and was tackling the phenomenon on the basis of a presidential instruction, with the help of two anti-corruption teams. Efforts against drug trafficking, money-laundering and human trafficking had been intensified. Thanks to its effectiveness in dealing with money-laundering, Indonesia had been removed from the Financial Action Task Force list of Non-Cooperative Countries and Territories (NCCTs). As a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Indonesia took active part in the organization's anti-crime projects and measures, which aimed to build regional capacity and facilitate information and intelligence-sharing. At the national level, it was careful to involve relevant agencies, civil society and the private sector in Government measures.

15. Believing that only a united, committed and seriously involved international community could legally restrain those who put profit before people and used illegal means to achieve their goals, Indonesia stood with those who condemned and actively opposed criminal networks across the globe.

16. **Mr. Sebalime** (Uganda), speaking on agenda item 106, said that the world should place at the top of its agenda the task of strengthening cooperation to curb what the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change had called the "diversity, flexibility, low visibility and longevity" of organized criminal networks. Terrorism, meanwhile, was one of the greatest threats to security and development. His delegation hoped that the proposals of the Secretary-General and of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held in Bangkok in April 2004 would result in international cooperation to overcome that threat.

17. Uganda particularly welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (A/60/123), an institution which, with the help of the United Nations and its Member States, development partners, the private sector and civil society, helped African countries to assess criminality trends in the region and their impact on development; formulate policies for prevention of crime, treatment of offenders and promotion of criminal justice reforms in the context of development; and encourage technical cooperation in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. Africa was vulnerable, and needed such support to fight crime. If financial support to African regional and national initiatives was compromised, the world would never be free from threats to peace and security.

16. Uganda had acted to improve law and order, introducing an anti-terrorism act in 2002, seeking to widen legal-aid services throughout the country, using best practices in the court system and increasing the number of courts, State attorneys, magistrates and judges. Training for police units had improved police efficiency and public confidence in the force. Prisons were being rebuilt to improve conditions, and community service for petty crimes had reduced overcrowding. The Government was addressing crime and corruption through good governance, including devolution of powers to local governments.

17. The international community must cooperate to eliminate crime before it assumed ever more challenging forms, forcing future generations to live with syndicates that could not be broken up.

18. **Ms. Jones** (Montserrat), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

19. **Ms. Bethel** (Bahamas), speaking on agenda item 107, said that the Bahamas had consistently played its role in confronting the global menace of narcotic drugs. Although it was neither a producer of such drugs nor a major destination for them, its geographical location on the route between sources of supply in the south and the markets of the north had made it a transit point. In common with the rest of the Caribbean, it had therefore suffered the effects of the drug trade, including a rise in crime, particularly violent crime, and greater trade in small arms and light weapons. Such effects threatened its national security, social and economic development and way of life.

20. As the 2005 World Summit had acknowledged, transnational crime required a collective response. The Bahamas was a party to all the major international drug conventions, and was committed to implementing them and the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. Transit States could not make a full contribution to global efforts without international assistance, hence the Bahamas called on all States to implement the Economic and Social Council resolutions on international assistance to the States most affected by the transit of drugs and to sustain their commitment to a fair and balanced approach to drug control, with strategies to reduce both supply and demand. The Bahamas was also an active participant in regional interdiction mechanisms.

21. The Bahamas had established a comprehensive legislative regime to criminalize narcotic drugs, facilitate international cooperation and prevent money laundering. Moreover, it devoted 12 per cent of its national budget to national security, most of which was allocated to law-enforcement and drug-interdiction efforts. The adoption of the Bahamas National Anti-Drug Plan 2004-2009 provided a significant boost to the coordination and enhancement of those efforts.

22. At the bilateral level, Operation Bahamas and Turks and Caicos (OPBAT) brought together law enforcement agencies from the United States, the Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands, and was regarded as a model in the region for cooperation in drug-interdiction activities. The Bahamas was set to continue to cooperate through such mechanisms, as well as through training and the exchange of information and intelligence.

23. Consistent with the principles adopted by the international community, the Bahamas had also tried to address the issue of demand reduction. The Bahamas National Drug Council, a quasi-government body, was mandated to lead national efforts in the areas of prevention, education, treatment and rehabilitation. As one of the world's premier offshore banking centres, the Bahamas was also determined to ensure that its banks and financial entities were well regulated and in compliance with international norms. The financial services industry was governed by a comprehensive legislative package designed to ensure that criminal networks did not exploit the industry in order to facilitate illicit activity.

24. **Mr. Vixay** (Lao People's Democratic Republic), speaking on agenda item 107, said that it had been five years earlier his country had signed an agreement with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to launch a strategy aimed at eliminating opium production. The strategy had been extremely successful, especially in the area of supply reduction, and by May 2005 all the country's 10 provinces and one special economic zone had been declared free of opium production.

25. However, much remained to be done to ensure the sustainable elimination of illicit crops. The Government was also endeavouring to reduce demand by focusing its efforts on some 20,000 remaining opium addicts in the country. The Government and UNODC had adopted a three-year strategy (2006-2008) aimed at improving the livelihoods of former growers who had depended on the opium poppy for cash

income, providing comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation for opium addicts and preventive education for young people and stopping illicit drug production and trafficking, through adequate law-enforcement measures.

26. However, the challenges of eradicating drug trafficking and related crime in urban areas remained enormous. His country continued to be used as an important transit point for traffickers of amphetamine-type stimulants. The abuse of synthetic drugs had spread from the country's northern and central regions to its southern provinces, and the number of young addicts was rising. In response, the Government had launched an awareness-raising campaign in four southern provinces, and was also taking steps to improve its legal framework for drug control and strengthen its law-enforcement capacity to reduce drug trafficking throughout the country.

27. **Mr. Aksen** (Turkey), speaking on agenda items 106 and 107, said that transnational organized crime had risen significantly over the past two decades. As globalization proceeded, organized crime networks became more sophisticated and new forms of crime emerged. Combating organized crime required a coordinated and comprehensive international response, as well as measures taken at the national level. Turkey had introduced a number of domestic laws in order to tackle the problem, and was also a party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

28. Trafficking in human beings was a matter of growing concern. Turkey's new Penal Code, which had come into force on 1 June 2005, included an explicit definition of trafficking in human beings. A national task force had been established in 2002 to combat trafficking in human beings and had achieved considerable success. In order to tackle increasing corruption, the international community should intensify cooperation based on a strategy that addressed both the demand and supply sides of the problem.

29. The illicit use of drugs, particularly by young people, continued to be a major concern for the international community. Turkey had signed all the relevant United Nations drug-control treaties and had concluded bilateral cooperation agreements with 66 different countries. It also played an active role in most leading international drug control agencies, including UNODC, and the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC), established in 2000, had been effective in promoting cooperation at the regional level. Turkey continued to provide assistance to various countries with a view to strengthening their law-enforcement capacities and reducing the demand for illicit drugs.

30. Terrorism continued to pose a significant threat to global peace and security. Combating terrorism would require determined, effective and sustained international cooperation. He noted that various forms of organized crime, including drug trafficking, provided significant financial resources to terrorist groups. Turkey had been drawing attention to the link between organized crime and terrorism for many years, and was pleased to see that the link was now being recognized by the international community.

31. **Ms. Holguín Cuéllar** (Colombia), speaking on agenda item 107, said that because the problem of illicit drugs was global in nature, it required the application of the principle of shared responsibility at every stage, from production to consumption. As the problem was linked to transnational organized crime and terrorism, there was a need for a more integrated response aimed at eliminating the supply of economic resources to criminal and terrorist organizations. Together with its bilateral and multilateral partners, Colombia had for many years been aiming its efforts at eradicating coca crops. Although much remained to be done, significant results had been achieved.

32. The promotion of alternative programmes was key to the sustained eradication of illicit crops. Such programmes were effective and offered the added benefits of eradicating poverty and protecting the environment and forestry resources in the affected areas. The success of such programmes should encourage international development agencies, international banks and donor countries to make a firm political commitment, which should be translated into greater access to funding mechanisms and microcredit and the creation of a more favourable economic environment which would make it possible for the products of such programmes to access global markets.

33. Because the global drug problem affected all countries and peoples of the world, the international community must maintain the political will to eradicate the production and trafficking of illicit drugs, as well

as the demand for such drugs, in order to ensure a better, healthier world for future generations.

34. **Mr. Dejoie** (Haiti), speaking on agenda items 106 and 107, said that his country's Transitional Government remained concerned at the problem of illicit drug trafficking throughout the world. Despite the efforts of Governments, the demand for narcotic drugs continued to rise. Criminal organizations were becoming increasingly sophisticated and continued to defy the efforts of the world's intelligence services.

35. Because of its precarious socio-economic situation, its geographical location and the inadequacy of its police force, Haiti was becoming an ideal transit space for criminal organizations. In response, the Transitional Government had adopted a series of measures to strengthen the national police force, reform the judiciary and combat corruption and money-laundering, working closely with United Nations agencies based in the country. It had also launched a transition strategy aimed at consolidating the police force. Despite the arrest of several notorious drug traffickers in 2004 and 2005, the national police force was understaffed, and the narcotics-drugs unit was too small to be deployed on a national basis. On the positive side, coordination among the country's various drug units had improved, and efforts to prosecute traffickers in court were proving more successful.

36. The Government continued to strengthen laws aimed at eradicating crimes related to drug trafficking, and Haiti had ratified both the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA). On the demand side, the lack of precise data on drug consumption continued to hamper decision-making. With the help of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), the Government had initiated a survey on drug use in its schools, the results of which would be available in January 2006. Haiti welcomed the support provided by CICAD and its Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) to strengthen anti-drug agencies in the southern hemisphere.

37. *Mr. Butagira (Uganda), Chairman, resumed the Chair.*

38. **Mr. Lafiaji** (Nigeria), speaking on agenda items 106 and 107, said that the escalation in organized crime, including drug trafficking and money-laundering, was a matter of serious concern to his country, and required a coordinated response at the national and international levels. Although Nigeria was not a drug-producing country, its territory had been used to facilitate the passage of narcotic drugs from Latin America and Asia to markets in Europe and the United States. Although there was only a small user population in Nigeria, the Government had implemented a national anti-drug campaign, involving all branches of government, in an effort to prevent the situation from deteriorating.

39. The campaign had led to a significant reduction in the number of traffickers using Nigeria for transit purposes. Furthermore, the West African Joint Operations (WAJO) initiative had been launched in 2003, in an effort to thwart traffickers who had transferred their operations to neighbouring countries. The initiative had improved the exchange of intelligence and cross-border operations within the subregion. The importance of training to successful drug enforcement could not be overemphasized. In collaboration with UNODC, Nigeria had set up an international training centre which had developed several training programmes.

40. Nigeria was a party to all United Nations drug-control conventions, and used the import-export authorization system for all internationally controlled substances intended for legitimate medical and scientific purposes. Moreover, the main laws on drug trafficking and abuse had made the forfeiture of the property of convicted drug offenders an integral part of its anti-narcotics effort. Nigeria had also strengthened its efforts to prevent drug use and to reduce demand, and had set up a special investigations unit which was responsible for screening parcels entering and leaving the country.

41. The Government had set up mechanisms to combat money-laundering, including steps to strengthen the country's financial investigation capacity and enhance the inspection of banking operations. However, its efforts would not succeed unless it received cooperation from the country's development partners, in whose banks such funds were ultimately deposited. Nigeria would actively support bilateral and multilateral efforts to counter trafficking in persons. It had signed bilateral memorandums of understanding with Italy and Benin, and was exploring the possibility of entering into similar relationships with other countries. At the national level, the

Government had introduced the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons Act, which made trafficking in persons a criminal offence and provided severe penalties for offenders.

42. **Mr. Gill** (India), speaking on agenda items 106 and 107, said that India supported the integrated approach of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism and encouraged it to continue with its ongoing programme of operational transformation. There was an urgent need to recast drug and crime policies into a broader development mould, based on the promotion of justice and good governance, and India welcomed UNODC initiatives in that direction. The close nexus between international terrorism and transnational organized crime, illicit drugs, money-laundering, illegal arms transactions and the illegal movement of nuclear, chemical and biological material posed a serious threat to international security and required careful monitoring. The terrorist attacks suffered by India over the past few years had not only caused huge loss of life, but had also seriously affected jobs, economic opportunities, development efforts and infrastructure. India had taken extensive measures, and concluded bilateral and regional arrangements, to combat terrorism. Recalling that the 2005 World Summit Outcome reflected the international community's joint resolve to fight terrorism, he said that there was no better institutional setting than the United Nations for providing cohesion and vigour to such efforts. As an initiator of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, India was fully committed to the decision by heads of State and Government to conclude negotiations on the convention in the early part of the sixtieth session.

43. India welcomed the Bangkok Declaration of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, particularly its call for countries to work together on extradition and mutual legal assistance and to combat cybercrime. India was a signatory of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols, and was taking steps towards their ratification. Moreover, it had concluded bilateral agreements with several countries with a view to developing joint programmes to combat terrorism, money-laundering and organized crime. India's already strong domestic legislation on the matter had been further strengthened with the enactment of its Money-Laundering Act. There was also an urgent need to enhance the capacities of the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch, the role of which was particularly important.

44. According to the World Drug Report 2005, some 200 million people — or 5 per cent of the world's population age 15-64 — had used drugs at least once in the last 12 months. While global coca cultivation and cocaine manufacture had declined steadily since 1999, global illicit opium production and amphetamine-type stimulants were on the increase. Trafficking was also on the rise. The international community must act early to prevent the menace from posing even greater risks to the social and economic fabric of the countries affected. India was fully committed to the Political Declaration and Action Plan adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. The Narcotic Control Bureau of India had achieved significant success in recent years in drug seizures, counter-trafficking, interdiction and investigation, and illicit crop destruction. However, national efforts alone were not sufficient to address the drug problem. Bilateral, regional and international cooperation was also essential. Treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance and other specific arrangements were essential to support efforts to eradicate drug trafficking, organized crime and terrorism. The emerging area of law-enforcement cooperation was particularly important.

45. **Mr. Thapa** (Nepal), speaking on agenda items 106 and 107, said that Nepal attached great importance to the work of UNODC. Transnational organized crime — particularly terrorism — threatened international peace, security and development, caused massive loss of life and property, and threatened the fabric of civilized society across the world. Such crimes not only disrupted the efforts of Member States in the area of development, peace and justice, but also misguided young people towards crime. Though intended to promote international economic growth and development, globalization had helped criminals expand their networks worldwide. In that regard, Nepal was committed to working with other States in order to defeat the activities of transnational organized criminal groups.

46. His Government was also committed to combating corruption, which seriously affected development efforts in developing countries by eating up their resources and undermining their stability. At

the national level, his Government had launched an anti-corruption drive and empowered national institutions to take severe action against corruption. Good governance was one of the four pillars of the current five-year national development plan. As a party to the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others and its Final Protocol of 1950, Nepal condemned all forms of trafficking and called on the international community to protect the victims of trafficking by providing them with shelter, helping them return home and treating them humanely. Nepal was also concerned about the serious threat of narcotic drugs to public health, safety and the well-being of people, particularly young people. As a party to international drug control treaties, including the SAARC Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Nepal emphasized the need for demand reduction, supply control, prevention and treatment, and called on the international community and the United Nations to continue to provide financial and technical assistance to complement national counter-narcotics efforts. His Government also reiterated its utmost resolve to combat terrorism at all levels. In that regard, Nepal had extended its cooperation to the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee and the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch and was carefully studying those international anti-terrorism instruments to which it was not yet a party. His delegation took note of the outcome of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and urged the international community to take coherent measures to implement the recommendations contained in the Bangkok Declaration. Lastly, his delegation urged the international community to extend its support to the least developed countries in order to strengthen national institutional capacity and regulatory frameworks and to join hands to defeat the social evils crippling national development efforts.

47. **Mr. Israeli** (Israel), speaking on agenda item 107, said that Israel shared the global concern over illicit drug use, which it was taking active steps to combat. Regional and international cooperation on drug trafficking was necessary to prevent further violence. On that basis, Israel was a party to various conventions and treaties on narcotic drugs, including the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, and to the Political Declaration adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly

member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs s
2004. Israel was fully committed to the target dat
2008 established at the twentieth special session. D
trafficking posed a major strategic th
internationally. Throughout the world, terro
organizations used drug trafficking networks to exec
their goals. A concerted effort was required, includ
information- and intelligence-sharing, pooling
resources and cooperation on enforcement. Realiz
that regional as well as international cooperation
required, Israel wished to partner more closely with
Arab neighbours. It had been pursuing partnersh
with other States in the Middle East for several ye
and hoped that the regional meeting of UNO
scheduled to take place by the end of 2005, wo
enhance such cooperation.

48. On the domestic front, Israel's Anti-D
Authority (IADA) had developed a series
programmes aimed at reducing drug-related violence
the country by as much as 40 per cent. The guid
philosophy behind such efforts was that alcohol
illicit drug abuse was a major cause of violen
Research had shown that 60 per cent of world viole
was committed by individuals under the influence
alcohol and other drugs. Israel had therefore made
priority to address the issue, adopting a comprehens
approach to drug prevention, treatment, deterrence
enforcement which involved a system-wide ef
among Government bodies. In addition, w
considering the diversity of Israeli citizens, s
programmes targeted specific groups on the basis
ethnicity, primary language and culture. The main a
of IADA in recent years had been to increase pu
awareness of the dangers of drug abuse; develop
implement prevention, treatment and rehabilitat
programmes for various target groups; offer d
awareness and prevention training programmes
teachers, nurses and medical professionals;
cooperate with regional and international stakeholde

49. **Mr. Hyassat** (Jordan), speaking on agenda ite
106 and 107, said that crime prevention and crim
justice were indispensable factors for social growth
that regard, Jordan wished to provide the grea
possible measure of security and stability for
people, establishing the rule of law and an indepen
judiciary and achieving crime prevention thro
awareness campaigns, with the cooperation of c
society and all interested organizations. Prevent

crime and combating terrorism, money-laundering and organized crime required international cooperation, particularly in the area of information exchange and technical assistance. He hoped that the results of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice would be reflected in practical measures to tackle all forms of crime, in particular the more recent forms.

50. Jordan had adopted stringent measures to curb corruption and prevent its negative effects on society, setting up an independent body to coordinate the work of all relevant bodies, developing a strategy to combat and eliminate corruption and reviewing all its legislation on corruption and the relevant bodies. Jordan was preparing to ratify the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which it was pleased to note would enter into force at the end of 2005. With regard to drug trafficking, Jordan welcomed the successes achieved at every level and would pursue its cooperation with all bodies to protect society and raise awareness, in particular among young people and children, with the support of the national councils for youth and for the family. Curative efforts, meanwhile, were coordinated between the Ministries of Health and Social Development and the anti-drug administration, in order to provide services for drug addicts with a view to their social reintegration.

51. **Ms. Halabi** (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking on agenda items 106 and 107, said that urgent solutions were needed to eliminate the dangers of drugs. The Syrian Arab Republic had adhered to all international drug trafficking instruments and was a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. It had concluded bilateral agreements on drug trafficking information exchange with several neighbouring countries. It was also stepping up national measures to tackle drug abuse, particularly among children and young people, through implementation of demand reduction policies and programmes, including research on all drugs under international control, in order to raise awareness and continue to develop demand reduction policies. Her Government also applied severe penalties to the perpetrators of drug-related crime. According to statistics, for every million persons, 127 were drug users, with the lowest number being among under 18-year-olds. The Syrian Arab Republic had set up rehabilitation and treatment centres for drug addicts, but was neither a producing country nor a transit country.

52. The Syrian Arab Republic was a party to most international crime prevention instruments, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and two of its Protocols, the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. It was also working on a bilateral and multilateral level with most Arab countries and other States, particularly with regard to extradition and international standards on money-laundering and investment in criminal activities. The Syrian Arab Republic had also succeeded to the Arab Convention on Judicial Cooperation and the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism. Her Government cooperated closely with UNODC and appreciated the work of its Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa. In that regard, she appealed for its resources to be stepped up to enable it to fulfil its mandate more effectively. Action by the United Nations would not be effective without real political will to tackle drug production, consumption and trafficking.

55. **Mr. Toro Jimenez** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), speaking on agenda item 107, said that the problem of drugs and drug trafficking was a crime against humanity which affected the weakest sectors of society. For that reason, it required a whole-hearted commitment by all international stakeholders, in keeping with the principle of shared responsibility and a comprehensive and balanced approach. Venezuela had stepped up action and cooperation by establishing internal and international mechanisms, both bilateral and multilateral, that strengthened the immediate response to the challenges raised by drugs. However, authorities in drug-consuming countries should take decisive action so that efforts to control production could be effective. Without consumption there would be no production or trafficking. The primary responsibility therefore lay with the drug consumers living in the first world, where social decline and the weakening of the family had significantly increased drug use. While reaffirming the importance of international cooperation and assistance against illicit drug use, production and trafficking, his delegation emphasized that no cooperation agreement on counter-narcotics should contravene the principles established in the Charter or in international law, particularly territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of another State.